

South Carolina Department of Agriculture

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 11, 2008

Bluffton Farmers Market to hold Certified SC Grown Bake Sale

COLUMBIA, SC – To showcase Certified SC Grown produce and, at the same time, show support for ending childhood hunger, the Bluffton Farmers Market is participating in the 2nd annual statewide Certified SC Grown Bake Sale. The Bluffton Farmers Market Bake Sale will be held during market hours from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Thursday, June 19, 2008 at the Bluffton Oyster Company Park, 63 Wharf Street in Bluffton, SC.

The national Great American Bake Sale campaign, which mobilizes people of all ages to help end childhood hunger by holding bake sales in their communities, began in March and ends June 30th. The event, sponsored by Share Our Strength and the Food Network, has provided more than 5.3 million meals to low-income children.

Whether \$10 or \$10,000, the contribution is important and can be a part of something big. Share Our Strength takes the funds raised from the bake sales and grants them to the most effective organizations working to end poverty and hunger. Last year, the state's community based farmers markets helped in the effort to raise about \$3,000 which was distributed to Share Our Strength through SC Advocates for Agriculture. In 2007, Destiny, a Fit Kids program in Greenwood, SC, benefited from the Certified SC Grown Bake Sale effort.

Bluffton Farmers Market manager, Diane Fornari, said, "The Bluffton Farmers Market, supported by the Bluffton Rotary Club, is not only a place to buy fresh, locally grown produce, plants and flowers, and herbs, but it's also a weekly community event where locals and visitors gather to enjoy delicious food, listen to entertainment, and relax with friends." Situated in a tree lined park along the lovely May River, the Bluffton Farmers Market is a family-friendly happening that showcases local growers, local food vendors, local entertainment, and local information about the Bluffton/Hilton Head Island/Sun City area.

Hugh Weathers, Commissioner of Agriculture, said, "Our state's community-based farmers markets are ideal places to hold bake sales. Customers are already looking for food, and they're ready to shop and willing to help such a worthy cause. This is a sweet way for farmers and consumers to help end hunger and poverty."

In addition to Certified SC Grown Bake Sale, fresh produce, and great food and fun, the Bluffton Market will also feature the Sun City Strummers, a stringed instrument band that will entertain from 4 to 5 p.m.

For more information about the Bluffton Farmers Market, call Diane Fornari, Market Manager, 843-815-4411, dgfornari@aol.com, or visit www.blufftonfarmersmarket.com.

To donate baked goods or for more information about the bake sale, contact Kimberly@lowcountrybusinesscircle.com or to donate online to the Certified SC Grown Bake Sale, visit <http://join.strength.org/goto/Certified.SC.Grown>.

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